IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new Claims 67 and 68 and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A processing method of ordering a new consumable to be used by a printer and returning a used consumable, used by the printer, being performed by an information processing system capable of communicating with a plurality of terminals via the Internet, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving participating information, indicating whether or not a user wishes to participate in a return service, from at least one terminal of the plurality of terminals, wherein the return service is provided by the system to allow~~ing~~ the user to return the used consumable;

setting a flag, which is ~~in a memory unit~~ managed by the information processing system, in a memory unit in accordance with the participating information;

transmitting first information containing data fields to at least one of the plurality of terminals for display on a screen, and allowing the user to input data into the data fields to order the new consumable and to specify the return of the used consumable; and

transmitting second information for display on the screen of at least one of the plurality of terminals, which includes a message (a) to prompt the user concerning the return service in a case ~~when~~ where the flag set in said setting step indicates that the user did not wish to participate in the return service, and (b) indicating a history regarding the return of the used consumable by the user and an incentive point corresponding to the history in a case ~~when~~ where the flag set in said setting step indicates that the user wishes to participate in the return service.

2. to 57. (Canceled)

58. (Currently Amended) A processing method ~~of~~ for returning a used consumable, used by a printer, being performed by an information processing system capable of communicating with a plurality of terminals via the Internet, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving user log-in information from one of the plurality of terminals;

reading a history, which corresponds to the user log-in information, regarding the used consumable returned by [[a]] the user ~~corresponding to the user log-in information,~~ from a database;

determining an incentive point based on the history read in said reading step; and

generating a message indicating the history read in said reading step and the incentive point determined in said determining step, to be sent to one of the plurality of terminals.

59. (Canceled)

60. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 58, further comprising the steps of:

receiving participating information, indicating whether [[a]] or not the user wishes to participate in a return service ~~or not~~, from at least one ~~terminal~~ of the plurality of

terminals, wherein the return service is provided by the system to allow~~ing~~ the user to return the used consumable;

setting a flag, which is ~~in a memory unit~~ managed by the information processing system, in a memory unit in accordance with the participating information; and

transmitting first information for display on a screen of at least one of the plurality of terminals, which includes (a) a message to prompt the user concerning the return service in a case ~~when~~ where the flag set in said setting step indicates that the user did not wish to participate in the return service, and (b) the message generated in said generating step in a case ~~when~~ where the flag set in said setting step indicates that the user wishes to participate in the return service.

61. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program for executing a processing method ~~of~~ for ordering a new consumable to be used by a printer and returning a used consumable, used by the printer, being performed by an information processing system capable of communicating with a plurality of terminals via the Internet, said program comprising:

code for a receiving step of receiving participating information, indicating whether or not a user wishes to participate in a return service, from at least one terminal of the plurality of terminals, wherein the return service is provided by the system to allow~~ing~~ the user to return the used consumable;

code for a setting step of setting a flag, which is ~~in a memory unit~~ managed by the information processing system, in a memory unit in accordance with the participating

information;

code for a first transmitting step of transmitting first information containing data fields to at least one of the plurality of terminals for display on a screen, and to allow~~ing~~ the user to input data into the data fields to order the new consumable and to specify the return of the used consumable; and

code for a second transmitting step of transmitting second information for display on the screen of at least one of the plurality of terminals, which includes a message (a) to prompt the user concerning the return service in a case ~~when~~ where the flag set by said ~~code for a~~ setting step indicates that user did not wish to participate in the return service, and (b) indicating a history regarding the return of the used consumable by the user and an incentive point corresponding to the history in a case ~~when~~ where the flag set by said ~~code for a~~ setting step indicates that the user ~~wished~~ wishes to participate in the return service.

62. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program for executing a processing method ~~of~~ for returning a used consumable, used by a printer, being performed by an information processing system capable of communicating with a plurality of terminals via the Internet, said program comprising:

code for a first receiving step of receiving user log-in information from one of the plurality of terminals;

code for a reading step of reading a history, which corresponds to the user log-in information, regarding the used consumable returned by [[a]] the user ~~corresponding to the user log-in information,~~ from a database;

code for a determining step of determining an incentive point based on the history read by said ~~code for a~~ reading step; and

code for a generating step of generating a message indicating the history read by said ~~code for a first~~ reading step and the incentive point determined by said ~~code for a~~ determining step, to be sent to one of the plurality of terminals.

63. (Currently Amended) A computer program according to claim 62, further comprising:

code for a second receiving step of receiving participating information, indicating whether or not [[a]] the user wishes to participate in a return service, from at least one terminal of the plurality of terminals, wherein the return service is provided by the system to allow~~ing~~ the user to return the used consumable;

code for a setting step of setting a flag, which is ~~in a memory unit~~ managed by the information processing system, in a memory unit in accordance with the participating information; and

code for a transmitting step of transmitting first information for display on a screen of at least one of the plurality of terminals, which includes (a) a message to prompt the user concerning the return service in a case ~~when~~ where the flag set by said ~~code for a~~ setting step indicates that the user did not wish to participate in the return service, and (b) the message generated by said ~~code for a~~ generating step in a case ~~when~~ where the flag set by said ~~code for a~~ setting step indicates that the user wishes to participate in the return service.

64. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus for ordering a new consumable to be used by a printer and for returning a used consumable, used by the printer, by communicating with a plurality of terminals via the Internet, said apparatus comprising:

a receiver, arranged to receive participating information, indicating whether or not a user wishes to participate in a return service, from at least one terminal of the plurality of terminals of the user, wherein the return service is provided by a system, which includes said apparatus, to allowing the user to return the used consumable;

a setting unit, arranged to set a flag, which is ~~in a memory unit of~~ managed by said apparatus, in a memory unit in accordance with the participating information;

a transmitter, arranged to transmit first information containing data fields to at least one of the plurality of terminals for display on a screen, and to allowing the user to input data into the data fields to order the new consumable and to specify the return of the used consumable, and to transmit second information for display on the screen of at least one of the plurality of terminals, which includes a message (a) to prompt the user concerning the return service in a case ~~when~~ where the flag set by said setting unit indicates that the user did not wish to participate in the return service, and (b) indicating a history regarding the return of the used consumable by the user and an incentive point corresponding to the history in a case ~~when~~ where the flag set by said setting unit indicates that the user wishes to participate in the return service.

65. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus for returning a used consumable, used by a printer, by communicating with a plurality of terminals via the Internet, said apparatus comprising:

a receiver, arranged to receive user log-in information from one of the plurality of terminals;

a reader, arranged to read result information, which includes a history which corresponds to the user log-in information, regarding the used consumable returned by [[a]] the user ~~corresponding to the user log-in information,~~ from a database ~~in accordance with the user log-in information~~;

a determination unit, arranged to determine an incentive point based on the history read by said reader; and

a generator, arranged to generate a message indicating the history read by said ~~code~~ reader and the incentive point determined by said determination unit, to be sent to one of the plurality of terminals.

66. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 65, further comprising a setting unit, arranged to set a flag, which is managed by ~~in a memory unit of~~ said apparatus, in a memory unit in accordance with ~~the~~ participating information received by said receiver from one of the plurality of terminals,

wherein the participating information indicates whether or not [[a]] the user wishes to participate in a return service~~, the return service is~~ provided by a system[[,]] which includes said apparatus, and which allows ~~allowing~~ the user to return the used consumable, and wherein said transmitter transmits information for display on a screen of at least one of the plurality of terminals, which includes (a) a message to prompt the user concerning the return service in a case where the flag set by said setting unit indicates that the user did not wish to

participate in the return service, and (b) the message generated by said generator in a case ~~when~~ where the flag set by said setting unit indicates that the user wishes to participate in the return service.

67. (New) The method according to claim 58, further comprising a step of keeping track of returning of the used consumable based on an order history and a returning history, which correspond to the user log-in information, to manage the history stored in the database.

68. (New) A processing method for returning a used consumable, used by a printer, being performed by an information processing system capable of communicating with a plurality of terminals via the Internet, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving user log-in information from one of the plurality of terminals;

determining an incentive point based on a history, which corresponds to the user log-in information, regarding a used consumable returned by a user;

generating a message indicating the history and the incentive point to be sent to one of the plurality of terminals; and

keeping track of returning of the used consumable based on an order history and a returning history, which correspond to the user log-in information, to manage the history used in the determining step.